

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit this Amendment and Response in reply to the Official Action dated July 20, 2009. Applicants submit that the Amendment and Response is fully responsive to the Official Action for at least the reasons set forth herein.

Formal Matters

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-23, 25-38, 40-42, 46, 47 and 49 were pending and under consideration in the present application. Claims 2, 12, 24, 39, 43-45, 48 and 50 had been canceled.

By this Amendment, claims 31, 34, 37 and 47 are amended, and claims 28-30 and 46 have been cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice to Applicant's right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in the future. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-11, 13-23, 25-27, 31-38, 40-42, 47 and 49 are pending and under consideration, with claims 1, 4, 11, 20, 23, 26, 31, 34, 37, 38, 40, 42, 47 and 49 being in independent form.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the claims 1, 3-11, 13-23, 25-27, 38, 40-42, and 49 have allowable subject matter.

Applicants note that claims 31, 34, 37 and 47 have been amended herewith. Specifically, independent claims 31, 34, 37, and 47 are amended to include the allowable features of "wherein said master apparatus has means for, if a slave apparatus to record a program cannot be selected, rearranging timer recording settings made in the slave apparatus to retain a slave apparatus to record a program, instructing the retained slave apparatus to change timer recording settings and set the program for timer recording, and instructing other slave apparatus in which timer recording settings are changed to change timer recording settings, and wherein each of said slave apparatus has means for, if

instructed to change timer recording settings by said master apparatus, changing timer recording settings”.

No new matter has been added to the application by way of the aforementioned amendments.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 28, 29, 31-37, 46 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Wood et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0057893 (hereinafter “Wood”). Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Wood in view of Tanaka, U.S. Patent No. 7,072,576. These rejections should be withdrawn based on the comments and remarks herein.

The Examiner states that “wherein said master apparatus has means for, if a slave apparatus to record a program cannot be selected, rearranging timer recording settings made in the slave apparatus to retain a slave apparatus to record a program, instructing the retained slave apparatus to change timer recording settings and set the program for timer recording, and instructing other slave apparatus in which timer recording settings are changed to change timer recording settings, and wherein each of said slave apparatus has means for, if instructed to change timer recording settings by said master apparatus, changing timer recording settings” is allowable subject matter (see Office Action mailed December 23, 2008, page 24, paragraph 9.) Independent claims 31, 34, 37 and 47 are amended to recite this allowable subject matter, so that these independent claims are allowable. Claims 32 and 33 depend from claim 31 and claims 35 and 36 depend from claim 34, so that these dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons that their base claims are allowable. Claims 28-30 and 46 are canceled.

Hence, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims recite patentable subject matter, and kindly solicits an early and favorable indication of allowability. If the Examiner has any reservation in allowing the claims, and believes a telephone interview would advance prosecution, she is kindly requested to telephone the undersigned at her earliest convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,



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